Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00937 101608Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /101 W
----------061172 102355Z /64
R 101535Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7255
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 937

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG, PORG, WA, SA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SWAPO BASES IN NAMIBIA

1. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS FROM LONDON, A FILM ON SWAPO ACTIVITIES INSIDE NAMIBIA BY SWEDISH PRODUCER PER SANDEN, WAS DUE FOR SCREENING MAY 10 ON BBC'S "TONIGHT" PROGRAM. SANDEN REPORTEDLY SAID HE AND HIS FILMING TEAM TRAVERSED THROUGH OVAMBO LAND TOUCHING ON THE KAOKAOVELD. HE SAID THEY WERE ESCORTED BY A"POSSE" OF ABOUT 250 SWAPO SOLDIERS. SANDEN REPORTEDLY STATED HE WAS ASTONISHED BY THE SIZE OF THE GUERRILLA CAMPS WITHIN NAMIBIA, THE BIGGEST OF WHICH HOUSED UP TO 2000 MILITARY PERSONNEL.
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00937 101608Z

"THEY WERE VERY WELL HIDDEN, WITH VERY BIG UNDERGROUND COMPLEXES AND UNDERGROWTH HIDEOUTS," HE SAID. HE ESTIMATED SWAPO MILITARY STRENGTH IN AND ON THE NAMIBIAN BORDER AT 7000 TO 10,000 MEN.

2. COMMENT: SANDEN'S REPORT SUGGESTS A POTENTIALLY MAJOR ISSUE WHICH COULD ARISE SHOULD AGREEMENT BE

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REACHED ON THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND IMPLEMENTATION BEGIN. SWAPO MIGHT CLAIM IT HAS SEVERAL BASES INSIDE OVAMBO AND INSIST THAT THEY BE RECOGNIZED. SOUTH AFRICA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS OPERATED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT NO ARMED SWAPO FORCES WOULD REMAIN IN OVAMBO DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. THE SAG WOULD CONSIDER RECOGNITION OF SWAPO BASES WITHIN THE TERRITORY AS DAMAGING POLITICALLY AND AS CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENT.
NELSON

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: MORG, PORG, SOPN, WA, SA, SWAPO
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20 Mar 2014
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